



Iowa Department of Human Rights

Governor Terry E. Branstad
Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds
San Wong, Director

Division of Community Action Agencies | Division of Community Advocacy and Services | Division of Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning
Offices of

Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs | Deaf Services | Latino Affairs | Native American Affairs | Persons with Disabilities | Status of African Americans | Status of Women

Commission of Latino Affairs Strategic Planning Meeting
American Red Cross Building, Conference Room B
2116 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA
October 14, 2011
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 9:53 a.m. by Chair Sal Alaniz.

Commissioners Present: Sal Alaniz, Chair; Joan Jaimes, Paula Martinez, Rebecca Jackson, Alejandro Pino and Sandra Sanchez-Naert (arrived 1:20 p.m.)

Commissioners Absent: Ramon Cantu

Staff Present: San Wong, Director; Jill Avery, Facilitator and Linda Scott (CAS)

Motion #12-05: Motion made to approve the agenda as presented. **Jackson/Pino** All in favor, motion carried.

Alaniz announced that it was his intent that the commissioners spend time together and briefly talk among each other and to talk as a group about how they became a commissioner and what they see in their communities as troubling to them and the Hispanic community. He has the hope that at this meeting, they will have a better understanding of who we are as individuals.

Focus points brought out at the meeting were:

DENISON/CARROLL:

- Focus should be statewide
- Build leadership
- Need for qualified interpreters
- Denison, IA – main employer is meat packing plants
 - ✓ Lack of support services
 - ✓ Mainstreet – Latino – Self-employed
 - ✓ Entry level jobs
 - ✓ Community Colleges – GED
 - ✓ Lack of Transportation
 - ✓ LIHEAP funds – needs documentation
 - ✓ DHS offices have no Spanish speaking employees
- Experiential exercise in Spanish
- Publicize the good news
- Need for good leaders

- More youth in college/educational settings
- Entrepreneurship
- SW Latino Association
- Resource Center
- Faith-based – working with pastors
- Children “dream” young
- Law enforcement issues

CEDAR RAPIDS:

- Visibility
- Iowa Congressional representation
- Access to education – Dream Act
- Growing Latino population in Dubuque (former residence of Commissioner Pino)
- “Bridges Out of Poverty” book

MARSHALLTOWN:

- Fearless - new business
- Central America

MOUNT PLEASANT:

- Polarized – time, relations, others to join
- SE Iowa – Lee, etc – over 20,000 gone
- 151,000 Latinos
- Volunteerism
- TED Conference
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CARLISLE:

- Small Latino population

OBJECTIVES/TASKS:

Continuous Goal – meet with other Commissions and make state government accountable.

- Tracking of calls; keeping a log
- State-of-the-State of Latinos
- Strategies of listening

SHORT TERM GOAL:

- Create State-of-the-State Report

LONG TERM GOAL:

- Create video about immigrant stories
 - ✓ Partner with businesses, Tourism boards, etc.
- Advocate and identify advocates
- Create relationships w/legislators and lobbyists
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- Have a visible presence in the Latino community
 - ✓ Participate in Latino events/listen/develop relationship/have a presence
- Get feedback from others regarding critical issues
- Bring in experts
- Have the Executive Officer work with others to develop a sustainable plan to meet needs
- Capture successes
- Request AmeriCorp or VISTA volunteer assistance

TIMELINE: was not discussed

LEAD:

CRITICAL ISSUES:

- Make state government accountable
 - ✓ Use the power of the DHR Board
 - ✓ Work with other Commissions
 - ✓ Identify common issues
 - ✓ Create a State-of-the-State Report (outsourcing to experts)
 - ✓ Improve understanding of organizational structure
 - ✓ Work with Legislative Services Bureau to research and word policy
- Be eyes and ears of community to identify issues
 - ✓ Increase visibility of Commission
 - ✓ Have Sanchez-Naert discuss on radio show
 - ✓ Be accountable to constituency
 - ✓ Update the Commission website
 - ✓ Promote community members on the Commission website

As was pointed out at the October 14, 2011 Commission meeting by Martinez, the Commission has a Strategic Plan in place through 2012.

There being no further business before the Commission, meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Sal Alaniz, Jr., Chair

Linda A. Scott, Recording Secretary